What Is Claimed Is:

1.   An apparatus for determining taxes that is configurable for local jurisdictions, comprising:

a tax knowledge base, wherein the tax knowledge base includes data pertaining to taxes in local jurisdictions;

a tax rule base, wherein the tax rule base includes rules for applying taxes in local jurisdictions; and

a tax determination manager that is configured to determine a tax for a transaction using the tax knowledge base and the tax rule base.

2.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax rules navigator that is used by the tax determination manager to navigate through rules to return the result or reference to a result for a tax determination process.

3.   The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tax rules navigator that can be used by processes of any tax services component, including the tax determination manager and tax administration manager.

4.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax services request manager that is configured to access the tax determination manager upon receiving a tax request from a registered subscriber.

5.   The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising an open subscription mechanism, wherein the open subscription mechanism includes security and

3   access protocols used by the tax services request manager to control access to the

4   tax determination manager.

1   6.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a record repository,

2   wherein the record repository stores information relating to tax events and tax

3   status.

1   7.   The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a tax repository

2   manager, wherein the tax repository manager is configured to store and retrieve

3   tax events and tax status to and from the record repository.

1   8.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax configuration

2   manager, wherein the tax configuration manager is configured to update the tax

3   knowledge base and the tax rule base.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a geographical model,

2   wherein the geographical model is used to configure the geographical boundaries

3   of various jurisdictions associated with different tax regimes.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a trading community

2   model, wherein the trading community model represents various parties,

3   sites and locations involved in tax operations in a standardized format.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax administration

2   manager, wherein the tax administration manager determines the recoverability

3   and the extent of recovery of a tax.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax administration

2   manager, wherein the tax administration manager determines the amount to be

3   settled with a tax authority for a given tax and a calendar period specified by the

4   tax authority.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax administration

2   manager, wherein the tax administration manager interfaces with a payables

3   system to enable the payment of the settlement amount determined by another

4   process of the tax administration manager.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tax administration

2   manager, wherein the tax administration manager provides the facility for

3   reconciling the amounts in the record repository with that existing in an

4   accounting system.

1   15.   A method for determining taxes for local jurisdictions, comprising

2   receiving a request to provide a tax for a transaction from a subscriber;

3   determining a set of local jurisdictions for the transaction;

4   accessing a tax rule base and a tax knowledge base;

5   calculating the tax for each jurisdiction in the set of local jurisdictions

6   using rules from the tax rule base and data from the tax knowledge base; and

7   returning the tax for each jurisdiction to the subscriber.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, further comprising:

2   determining a taxable basis from the transaction;

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3   determining a tax status basis from the tax rule base;

4   determining a tax rate from the tax knowledge base; and

5   calculating the tax based on the taxable basis, the tax status basis, and the

6 tax rate.

1   17.   The method of claim 15, wherein receiving the request from the

2 subscriber includes verifying that the subscriber is authorized to make the request.

1   18.   The method of claim 15, further comprising allowing a user to

2 update the tax rule base and the tax knowledge base, wherein updating the tax rule

3 base and the tax knowledge base provides current data for the method.

1   19.   A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that

2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for

3 determining taxes for local jurisdictions, comprising

4   receiving a request to provide a tax for a transaction from a subscriber;

5   determining a set of local jurisdictions for the transaction;

6   accessing a tax rule base and a tax knowledge base;

7   calculating the tax for each jurisdiction in the set of local jurisdictions

8 using rules from the tax rule base and data from the tax knowledge base; and

9   returning the tax for each jurisdiction to the subscriber.

1   20.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, the method

2 further comprising:

3   determining a taxable basis from the transaction;

4   determining a tax status basis from the tax rule base;

5   determining a tax rate from the tax knowledge base; and

6   calculating the tax based on the taxable basis, the tax status basis, and the

7 tax rate.

1   21.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein

2 receiving the request from the subscriber includes verifying that the subscriber is

3 authorized to make the request.

1   22.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, the method

2 further comprising allowing a user to update the tax rule base and the tax

3 knowledge base, wherein updating the tax rule base and the tax knowledge base

4 provides current data for the method.

1   23.   A means for determining taxes that is configurable for local

2 jurisdictions, comprising:

3   a tax knowledge base means for providing data pertaining to taxes in local

4 jurisdictions;

5   a tax rule base means for providing rules for applying taxes in local

6 jurisdictions; and

7   a tax determination manager means for determining a tax for a transaction

8 using the tax knowledge base means and the tax rule base means.

1   24.   The means of claim 23, further comprising a tax services request

2 manager means for accessing the tax determination manager means upon

3 receiving a tax request from a registered subscriber.

1   25.   The means of claim 23, further comprising an open subscription

2 means that includes security and access protocols used by the tax services request

3 manager means to control access to the tax determination manager means.

1   26.   The means of claim 23, further comprising a record repository

2 means for storing information relating to tax events and tax status.

1   27.   An apparatus that performs operations that need to be performed to

2 meet the requirements of a local jurisdiction, comprising:

3   a tax service comprising:

4   a number of service components within the tax service, including a tax

5 determination manager and a tax administration manager; and

6   a number of utility components within the tax service, including,

7   a geography model,

8   a knowledge base, and

9   and a tax rule base.

1   28.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein service components can be

2 broken down into a small number of well-defined processes to be executed by a

3 tax service in a specific, pre-determined order to fulfill the requirements imposed

4 by a tax authority of any local jurisdiction.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the tax rule base can accept

2 rules for any process of a service component to achieve a requisite result specified

3 by a tax authority of a local jurisdiction.

1   30.   The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a tax rules navigator

2   that operates on the tax rule base and returns a result, or a reference to a result, for

3   a process of a service component for a given local jurisdiction.

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